

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**Please replace all of the claims in the pending application with the following amended**

**claims:**

1. (original): A method of managing a network which is for use in a network using SNMP(Simple Network Management Protocol) between a network management device for managing the network and a management object device connected to the network management device through the network to be managed thereby, said method comprising the steps of:

compressing a data portion of an SNMP packet transferred between said network management device and said management object device by a predetermined compression algorithm to transmit the SNMP packet including the compressed data portion; and decompressing said compressed data portion of said SNMP packet by said predetermined compression algorithm to carry out a predetermined processing on the SNMP packet.

2. (original): A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said network management device memorizes a plurality of said management object devices to which said predetermined compression algorithm is applicable, respectively, in a table, said network management device compressing only said SNMP packet directed to the management object device to which said predetermined compression algorithm is applicable and which is memorized in said table to form a transfer packet to be transmitted.

3. (original): A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a bit "1" is set on a predetermined bit position of a packet tag showing a kind of a packet to be formed in a case that said data portion has been compressed by said predetermined compression algorithm, and wherein a bit "0" is set on the predetermined bit position of the packet tag showing a kind of a packet to be formed in the other case.

4. (original): A network management system which is for use in a network using SNMP(Simple Network Management Protocol) between a network management device for managing the network and a management device through the network to be managed thereby, comprising:

a packet which is transferred between said network management device and said management object device and which has a bit position for setting a compression indicating bit showing that said packet has been compressed by a predetermined compression algorithm; said network management device including:

a table for memorizing whether or not said predetermined compression algorithm is applicable to said management object device;

a compression/decompression processing section which investigates, by said table, whether or not said management object device connected to the network predetermined compression algorithm is applicable to said management object device as

a transmission destination, when SNMP packet is transmitted from said network management device; said compression/decompression processing section compressing said

packet with said compression indicating bit being set on said bit position, when said predetermined compression algorithm is applicable to said management object device as said transmission destination; said compression/decompression processing section decompressing said packet, when said compression indicating bit is set on said bit position of SNMP packet received from said management object device; and a communication processing section which adds a predetermined header to said SNMP packet to form a transfer packet; said transfer packet being transmitted to a transmission destination; said communication processing section extracting said SNMP packet from a received transfer packet; said communication processing section transmitting the extracted SNMP packet to said compression/decompression processing section, when said compression indicating bit is detected from said bit position of the extracted SNMP packet.

5. (original): A network management system as claimed in claim 4, wherein said management object device including: a communication processing section which is connected to the network management device through the network and which adds a predetermined header to said SNMP packet generated in said management object device to form a transfer packet; said transfer packet being transmitted to a transmission destination through the network; said communication processing section extracting said SNMP packet from a transfer packet received through the network; said SNMP packet being transmitted to an internal of said management object device; and

a compression/decompression processing section which compresses SNMP packet directed to said network management device with said compression indicating bit being set on said bit position; said compression/decompression processing section decompressing said SNMP packet, when said compression indicating bit is set on said bit position of SNMP packet received from said management object device.

6. (currently amended): A network management system as claimed in claim 5, wherein said communication processing section transmits said extracted SNMP packet to said compression/decompression processing section, in a case that said compression indicating bit is set on said bit position of the extracted SNMP packet, said communication processing section canceling said received packet in ~~the other cases~~ other than said case where said compression indicating bit is set on said bit position of the extracted SNMP packet.